



By the Kansas Historical Society

## Diary of a Buffalo Hunter

Henry H. Raymond was born in 1848 in Illinois. He followed his older brother Theodore to Kansas. Theodore and his friends, Bat and Ed Masterson were working as buffalo hunters for the Santa Fe Railroad near Dodge City. Using high-powered rifles each buffalo hunter could kill dozens of buffalo a day. With tanneries offering as much as \$3 per hide, buffalo hunting provided well-paying employment for many young men on the plains.

After arriving in Kansas, Henry Raymond bought a small pocket diary. In that diary he made an account of his daily activities. What follows is 10 days in Raymond's life.

### **Nov. Saturday 23 1872**

*Went out, helped skin 17 buffaloes. Very warm and pleasant. Theodore killed 5 of them. Abe Mayhue came in. Saw badger and prairie dogs.*

### **Nov. Monday 25 1872**

*Abe and Bat started for Dodge City this morning. Ed killed 19 buffalos. Skinned 15 of them. I killed one at night. Saw jackrabbit. Saw pack of wolves. Sent for pants and overalls, and cup and camphor gum, by Bat. Made ring of hoof.*

### **Nov. Tuesday 26 1872**

*Killed and skinned 20 buffalos. I killed 3 of them. Beautiful day until night, turned very cold and windy.*

### **Nov. Wednesday 27 1872**

*Cold day. Theodore and me skinned 14 buffalo. Steve and Jim fixed [cabin]. Ed killed wild turkey. Saw village of prairie dogs.*

### **Nov. Friday 29 1872**

*Killed and skinned 13 buffalo. I killed one. Theodore sick. Abe and Steve went to town, or rather started.*

**Nov. Saturday 30 1872**

*Ed and Bat and me killed and butchered 17 buffalos. Jim pegged [nailed the buffalo hides to the ground with wooden pegs].*

**Dec. Monday 2 1872**

*Hunted with Nixons outfit. Butchered 23 today. Jim and me 13.*

**Dec. Wednesday 4 1872**

*Butchered 20 buffalos, Theodore, Bat, Ed and me. Three Indians in camp today.*

**Dec. Thursday 5 1872**

*Butchered 19 buffalos, Ed, Theodore, Bat and me. Abe loaded and started for Dodge City. Three Indians in camp today.*

**Dec. Monday 9 1872**

*Skinned 30 buffalo. Very cold all day. Cloudy and windy at night. I killed 3 of the buffalo.*



*This photograph taken in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas, shows a large pile of buffalo hides obtained from hunting expeditions in western Kansas. It is estimated that the pile contains around 40,000 hides.*